

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Action Background

1. This action is responsive to the request for reconsideration filed 6/29/2009.
2. Claims were previously amended on 7/17/2007. Claims 5 and 15 were previously canceled.
3. Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 are pending in the case; claims 1, 16, 17 and 18 are independent claims.
4. The examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19, rejected as described in the office action dated 4/29/2009, is withdrawn in view of applicant's remarks.

Reasons for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 18, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor suggests to a person of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made, the claimed method, apparatus, article of manufacture for determining an annotation for a document, comprising the steps of obtaining an annotation proposed by a user to be associated with the document; automatically determining in accordance with a knowledge base containing allowed annotations, whether the user-proposed annotation matches one or more allowed annotations from the knowledge base; and annotating the document with an allowed annotation from the knowledge base when the user- proposed annotation matches the allowed annotation from the knowledge base; wherein the user need not consider any annotations when a single allowed annotation is automatically determined to match the user-proposed annotation, and when more than a single annotation is automatically determined to match the user-proposed annotation: (a) in a first mode, the user need only consider the matching allowed annotations and select one of the matching allowed annotations; and (b) in a second mode, the user need not consider any annotations but rather one of the allowed annotations is automatically selected.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4131. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Gregory J. Vaughn/
Patent Examiner
September 28, 2009